

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CAB-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
FAA-00 L-03 PM-05 H-02 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 HA-05 SIG-02 /124 R

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APPROVED BY EB/OA/AVP:GGRIFITHS
AF/W:KGARLAND
FAA/AIA-132:TCRAWFORD
-----045539 040513Z /17

P R 040236Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ET
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SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS

REF: (A) DJIBOUTI 0095 (NOTAL); (B) ADDIS ABABA 442 (NOTAL)

1. THE ETHIOPIAN NOTAM CITED IN REFTTEL B WHICH ADVISES

THAT OVERFLIGHTS OF ASSAB ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN HAS ALSO AFFECTED TWO MAJOR AIRWAYS WHICH TRANSIT THE ETHIOPIAN FLIGHT IDENTIFICATION REGION (FIR).

2. ACCORDING TO FAA AND DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY (DMA) OFFICIALS, THE 20 MILE RADIUS OF THE NEW PROHIBITED AREA "CENTERED ON POINTS 1301N 42244E FROM ASSAB TOWN" ALSO ENCOMPASSES INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS DR-39 AND DA-51, WHICH ARE ADMINISTERED BY ETHIOPIAN AVIATION AUTHORITIES. SINCE THE OVERFLIGHT PROHIBITION IS FROM GROUND TO HEIGHT UNLIMITED, THESE AIRWAYS ARE REGARDED BY FAA AND DMA OFFICIALS AS CLOSED. ALTHOUGH THIS OCCURRENCE OF ITSELF IS NOT AN UNCOMMON ONE IN INTERNATIONAL AVIATION (AIRWAYS IN F.I.R.'S ARE PERIODICALLY AND LEGITIMATELY CLOSED BY THEIR OPERATING AUTHORITIES FOR VARIOUS REASONS), WHAT IS UNSETTLING IS THAT ETHIOPIAN AVIATION AUTHORITIES SUGGEST THAT FLIGHTS FLYING DR-39 AND DA-51 NEED MERELY TO AVOID OVERFLYING THE PROHIBITED AREA (THE PORT OF ASSAB) WHEREAS IN FACT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR AN AIRCRAFT ESTABLISHED ON EITHER OF THESE AIRWAYS TO DO SO.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE DISCREPANCY, FAA ALSO ADVISES THAT DMA'S CIVIL CARTOGRAPHER COUNTERPART, JEPPESEN INC., HAS A NOTATION ON THEIR CHART WHICH WARNS ALL AIRCRAFT TRANSITING THE ETHIOPIAN FIR TO DO SO ONLY ON ESTABLISHED AIRWAYS. DMA CHARTS DO NOT HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS WARNING. ALTHOUGH JEPPESEN HAS YET TO INFORM FAA OF THE BASIS OF THIS WARNING, IF IT IS ACCURATE, IT WILL FURTHER UNDERSCORE THE NEED FOR THE GOE AVIATION AUTHORITIES TO READDRESS THEIR PROHIBITION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST EMB NOTIFY APPROPRIATE GOE AVIATION AUTHORITIES OF THE SUBSTANCE OF PARA 2 AND REQUEST THEY EITHER (1) AMEND THE NOTICE TO AIRMEN (NOTAM) TO ALLOW SCHEDULED AND UNSCHEDULED AIRCRAFT TO UTILIZE DR-39 AND DA-51 OR (2) PROVIDE BY-PASS ROUTING.

5. FYI: FAA WAS UNAWARE OF THIS NOTAM UNTIL RECEIPT OF REFTELS. VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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